

impacted the State of Florida, one of which resulted in the largest mobilization of Florida guardsmen in the State's history.

It was during that time that I had the privilege of personally working extensively with General Calhoun, and I can personally attest to his commitment to excellence and to the people of the State of Florida.

Despite the rapid pace of operations over the past 4 years, General Calhoun never lost sight of his mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his selfless leadership and service, and I wish him and his wife, Sophia, the best in their retirement. A grateful State and Nation say thank you.

□ 1930

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WORK

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve on the Judiciary Committee in the House and be the chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee.

I want to report to the American people that we passed out H.R. 1 that helps clean up corruption in our government, makes our government more transparent, makes voting easier and open to more people, and does other improvements the American people want.

We also passed out H.R. 8, the first gun reform bill in over 20 years that says you have to have background checks on all sales.

This week, we will be marking up the Violence Against Women Act. Hopefully, we will have bipartisan support for that.

We will also have a hearing on renewing the Voting Rights Act that never should have been discarded by the Supreme Court. We will be having hearings to get the Voting Rights Act back on the law books in the United States.

And our subcommittee had a hearing last week on the President's powers on emergency actions. We have bipartisan agreement that we need to reform that bill and will work together in a bipartisan fashion.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST-CLASS ELIZABETH JOHNSON

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, we honor American women whose exemplary lives have shaped the country we love.

In 1945, Private First-Class Elizabeth Johnson of Elkin, North Carolina, answered the call to serve our country, becoming one of 855 women to form the 6888th battalion, the first and only all-female and all-Black battalion in World War II.

They were given the task of delivering, in 1 year, a backlog of 1 year's

worth of servicemembers' mail waiting to be delivered. But with their strong dedication, in just 6 months, all letters were delivered to servicemembers waiting to hear from loved ones.

After a tour of duty in England and France, Ms. Johnson became the first woman to attend Winston-Salem State University on the GI Bill and dedicated over 30 years to teaching in Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank Ms. Johnson for her legacy of lifelong service to fellow Americans.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

(Mr. HAGEDORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize National Agriculture Week.

I grew up on a grain and livestock farm just outside of Truman, Minnesota, and have a deep appreciation for agriculture and all it does for our rural communities. Our ag-based economy is so critically important to our Nation and, of course, the State of Minnesota and southern Minnesota, which is our First District.

The people in southern Minnesota really appreciate our ag producers, our ag processors, our ag equipment dealers, and all the rest. I can tell you that in Minnesota's First District, one of the top crop and livestock districts in all the country, we actually were number two for hogs in the entire Nation.

Our First District is home to nearly 20,000 farmers. Considering that each farm produces enough food to feed about 165 people, the reach of our farmers goes throughout the United States and all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to commemorating and talking about the value of agriculture and our farmers during this week and throughout this Congress.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA SINCAVAGE

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, Friday was International Women's Day and, today, I rise to recognize the service of a remarkable woman in my district: Ms. Patricia Sincavage of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Sincavage has served as an occupational therapist at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center since 1978. She joined the VA after graduating from Elizabethtown College. The Lebanon VA serves about 80 percent of the veterans who reside in my district.

She has spent the entirety of her professional career giving back to our veterans. Occupational therapy can assist veterans in continuing to take care of their health needs while still doing the

activities they enjoy simply by adapting or doing things differently.

Ms. Sincavage is retiring from the VA after 43 years of service. She has four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She has served our Nation's veterans well, and it is an honor to recognize her today.

VENEZUELA

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, as I deliver these remarks, the people of Venezuela are without food, water, medicine, and now even electricity.

The organizing principle of American policy seems to be the need to drive Maduro from power. What if Maduro is not really in power right now? What if the people who are really calling the shots in Venezuela are a group of transnational criminal organizations that merely maintain Maduro as a figurehead? And what if their entire purpose is to draw the United States into an ill-advised war to create a massive migration of people throughout Latin America, eroding borders, jeopardizing nation-states, and ultimately leading to a permissive environment for more illicit activity to occur?

These are important questions we have to ask. My constituents have to go to Central and South America and fight these wars. And certainly, as a Congress, we need to be very critical in our thinking to not get our Nation in another ill-advised war.

MOURNING THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES CRASH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the tragic loss of life on Sunday morning as an Ethiopian Airlines jet carrying 157 people crashed only 6 minutes after takeoff. On board that flight were people from 35 different countries, including 8 U.S. citizens, with no survivors.

This tragedy hits close to home for those of us from northern California. Two of the eight Americans were from my own district in Shasta County.

Melvin and Bennett Riffel, two brothers from Redding, California, were embarking upon an adventure that had already taken them through Australia and Mogadishu before they arrived in Ethiopia. It has been said that this was their last trip together before Melvin was set to become a father, together with his wife Brittney, who had only recently returned home.

Our friends and neighbors in northern California share in the sadness and grief that we all feel for their families, and for all of the families who lost loved ones that day on that plane.